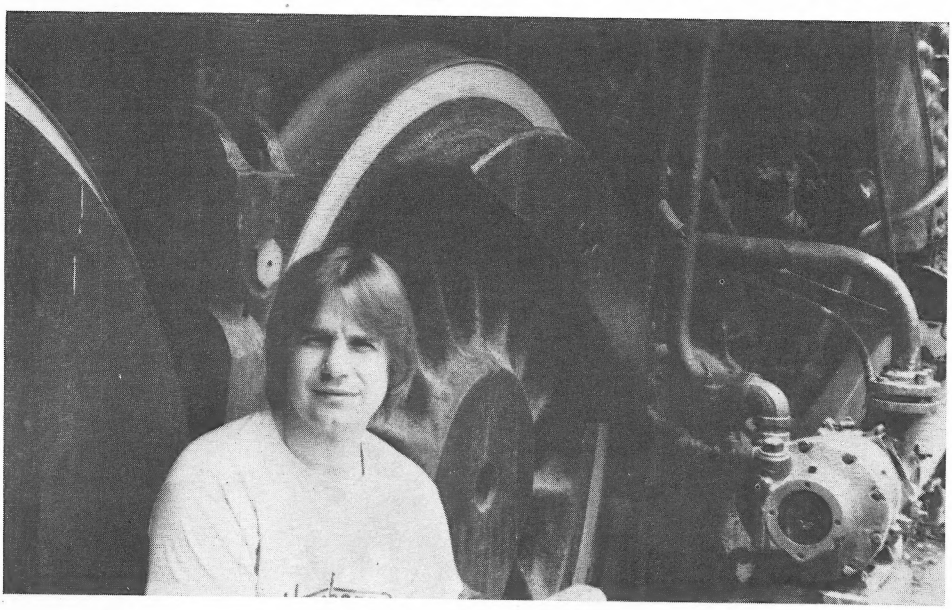
Achievement Program's Newest MMR



JOSEPH C. KURILEC, MMR NO. 79

by Tom Madden

Joe Kurilec is our newest Master Model Railroader, having earned Achievement Certificates for Motive Power, Cars, Structures, Scenery, Civil Engineering, Association Volunteer, and Author. Joe is 32, married, and lives in Berea, Ohio. He works in the graphic arts trade as a four color stripper for Penton/IPC and is one of the fortunate individuals who has found that much knowledge of his trade is applicable to his hobby.

A Marx 0-27 tinplate set started Joe in the hobby at about age three. At eleven he became interested in HO, and began serious modeling at eighteen. His present layout (he's had about seven) is in HO/HOn3 and runs around the walls and up the center of a 25'x40' area in his basement. He is still negotiating with his wife for an additional 10 feet of space in the washer and dryer area!

Joe has many interests within the hobby. He enjoys making and renewing friendships with modelers from all over the world at national and regional conventions. He enjoys model contests, both as an entrant and as a judge. His love for the steam locomotive, and the knowledge he has gained from studying steam over the years, will be evident in his tape/slide clinic on "Identifying and Explaining Steam Locomotive Fittings," now in final preparation.

Joe has had a few items published in the "Paint Shop" section of MODEL RAILROADER, and has had several articles in the **BULLETIN**. At one point, he was contributing columns on modeling tips and new products to one divisional and three regional publications! He has slowed this down a bit, but wants to continue his writing efforts.

In addition to his home region, the Mid-Central, Joe belongs to the North Central, Mid-Eastern, Rocky Mountain, and Pacific Coast regions. He gives clinics at both the divisional and regional levels, is the current Mid-Central region treasurer, and is on the Members Aid Committee. He is also Central promotion head for the NMRA, which gives him the opportunity to meet members from all over the country.

Joe's modeling efforts have resulted in over three dozen NMRA contest prizes, including several Best of Shows. He tries to enter models at any convention he attends.

All of these accomplishments and activities show that Joe is a real "doer," both in the hobby and in the NMRA. In common with most such active individuals, Joe has opinions on many aspects of the NMRA. On nit-pickers: "If we look at anything we can find fault with it. Members who complain and then give up their membership over some minor problem are only looking for an excuse to leave. Our group is not for everyone, but those who believe in the NMRA find many avenues of interest and challenge." And on the Achievement Program: "The A.P. has something for all members. Many modelers could have a good start on becoming MMRs. A giant layout with sophisticated controls is not needed. I would like to see more members get the recognition they deserve. Why not contact your regional chairman for facts on the program?"

Joe was also the unidentified builder of the B&O EM-1 2-8-8-4 shown in the steam locomotive section of the October BULLETIN coverage of the Calgary Convention.